



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Engineer Research and  
Development Center

# Fact Sheet

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## PC-Digital Terrain Elevation Data (DTED) Display Software

**Description and Background:** DTED Level 1 is available for a large portion of the world on 60+ CD-ROMs produced by the Defense Mapping Agency (DMA). For most latitudes, elevation values are spaced every arc second (approximately 100 meters) apart. Data are stored on the CD-ROM in one degree latitude by one-degree longitude cells, each of which typically requires three megabytes of disk space.

The objective of the PC-DTED program is to display DTED data accurately and efficiently in a DOS environment. This software performs two main functions with DTED Level 1. It displays an elevation map of an area with elevations color-coded by range and displays a matrix of actual elevation values for a smaller area. These functions provide effective browse and quality assessment capabilities.

**Key Capabilities:** There are two ways in which the user can display an area of full-scale DTED, where each elevation post corresponds to one pixel on the screen; first, by choosing a center point for the area, or second, by choosing and displaying a larger area, and then moving a cursor to choose a center point from the screen. Other options let the user toggle between the color map and matrix, change colors and change ranges.

Creating an overview of the entire CD-ROM may require searching through several hundred million DTED values and takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. For this reason, overviews of all currently available DTED CD-ROM's are included with the software and may be installed on the hard disk. Whenever an overview is created with the software, it is stored on the hard disk for rapid access in the future.

**Current Status:** A Beta release of the PC-DTED program is now available. Software and overview images are available on two disks. The final version was released in late August 1994.

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July 2001